

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 07501 181026Z
ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00
L-03 /037 W
-----055499 190110Z /64
R 181022Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6065

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 07501

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, SWEL, TBIO, XX, BE
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL FOOD LABELING SURVEY

REF: (A) STATE 89779, (B) USEC A-145 OF APRIL 5, 1977

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF (A), BELGIAN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIAL INFORMED AG ATTACHE REPS THAT BELGIUM DOES NOT HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE FOOD LABELING LAW BUT THAT SEPARATE REGULATIONS EXIST FOR MANY DIFFERENT FOOD PRODUCTS. IN GENERAL, BELGIAN REGULATIONS DO NOT REQUIRE QUANTITATIVE OR NON-QUANTITATIVE LABELING FOR CARBOHYDRATES OR OTHER MACRO-NUTRIENTS, ALTHOUGH INDIVIDUAL PROCESSORS MAY INCLUDE SUCH INFORMATION. HOWEVER, CERTAIN FOODSTUFFS, IF CONTAINING SUGAR, SUCH AS FRUIT JUICES AND JAMS, MUST SHOW QUANTITY OF SUGAR IN GRAMS OR PERCENT OF VOLUME OR WEIGHT. IN GENERAL, HEALTH AND CURE CLAIMS ARE NOT PERMITTED, ALTHOUGH DIETETIC AND OTHER SPECIAL FOODSTUFFS MAY CONTAIN SUCH MENTIONS AS "FOR SALT FREE DIETS" AND "FOR DIABETES."

2. BELGIUM PLANS TO AMEND AND REORGANIZE ITS FOOD LABELING REGULATIONS TO INCORPORATE FUTURE EC LABELING
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REQUIREMENTS AFTER PENDING EC DRAFT GENERAL FOOD LABELING PROPOSALS ARE FINALIZED. MINISTRY OFFICIAL EXPECTS THAT EC DIRECTIVE COULD BE FINALIZED LATER THIS YEAR, AND RELEVANT BELGIAN FOOD LABELING AMENDMENTS COULD APPEAR SOME MONTHS LATER. NEW BELGIAN REGULATIONS WILL INCLUDE QUANTITATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR MACRO-NUTRIENT LISTING

ALREADY SET OUT BY THE EC FOR FOODSTUFFS "FOR PARTICULAR NUTRITIONAL USE" (DIETETIC, INFANT FOOD, ETC.) IN EC COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 77/94 OF DECEMBER 21, 1976 (REF B).
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FOR FOODSTUFFS "FOR NORMAL CONSUMPTION," THERE ARE NO CURRENT EC DIRECTIVES COVERING NUTRIENT LABELING NOR ARE ANY SPECIFIC MACRO-NUTRIENT LABELING REQUIREMENTS MENTIONED IN THE DRAFT EC GENERAL LABELING PROPOSAL. EC DRAFT PROPOSAL PERMITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBER COUNTRIES TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS, THOUGH IT IS UNLIKELY BELGIUM WILL GO BEYOND THE BASIC PROPOSED EC PROVISION.
OLSEN

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOODS, LABELING, SURVEYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE07501
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780166-0847
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804105/aaaafjcv.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: fb6f35a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HEW
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 89779
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2828083
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 970819
Subject: INTERNATIONAL FOOD LABELING SURVEY
TAGS: EIND, SWEL, TBIO, BE, XX
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fb6f35a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014